

EO-822

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN STB DOCKET NO. AB-303 (Sub-No. 30X)

March 11, 2008

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) has expired in this:

(X) Notice of Exemption () Petition for Exemption () Regulated Abandonment

(X) NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED

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SEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on February 22, 2007 for public review and comment. In the EA, SEA recommended five environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Conclusions

The EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, SEA recommends that the following conditions previously recommended in the EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:

1. Prior to commencement of any salvage activities, Wisconsin Central Ltd. shall consult with state and local officials regarding any state or local flood plain regulatory requirements.
2. Prior to commencement of any salvage activities, Wisconsin Central Ltd. shall consult with Mr. Jim Bonetti of the Corps' Kewaunee Area Office to address their concerns about the proposed abandonment's impacts on the Federal navigation channel at Manitowoc Harbor.
3. Prior to commencement of any salvage activities, Wisconsin Central Ltd. (WCL) shall consult with the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program to determine whether state coastal management consistency certification is required. If consistency certification is required, WCL shall be prohibited from performing any salvage activities until it obtains consistency certification and shall then notify the Board's Section of

Environmental Analysis, pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act, 16 U.S.C. 1451 et seq and the Board's environmental regulations at 49 CFR 1105.9.

4. Wisconsin Central Ltd. (WCL) shall retain its interest in and take no steps to alter the historic integrity of all sites, buildings, and structures within the project right-of-way that are eligible for listing or listed in the National Register of Historic Places (generally, 50 years old or older) until the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. 470f, has been completed. WCL shall report back to the Section of Environmental Analysis regarding any consultations with the SHPO and any other Section 106 consulting parties. WCL may not file its consummation notice or initiate any salvage activities related to abandonment (including removal of tracks and ties) until the Section 106 process has been completed, and the Board has removed this condition.
5. Prior to commencement of any salvage activities, Wisconsin Central Ltd. shall consult with the United States Coast Guard regarding its concerns about removal of the bridges that cross the Manitowoc River.

If the above condition is imposed, SEA believes that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

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